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503.30414C13

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): KATO ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/390,681

Filed: September 7, 1999

For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING
METHOD THEREFOR



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97 AND §1.98

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

November 26, 1999

Sir:

Pursuant to Applicants' duty of disclosure, enclosed please find documents cited in an Office Action in connection with a Japanese patent application corresponding to the above-identified application. Further enclosed is a copy of a Form, substantially equal to Form PTO-1449, listing the enclosed documents.

The enclosed documents are being submitted prior to a first Office Action on the merits in the above-identified application. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.97 are satisfied.

To the extent that the enclosed documents are not in English, it is respectfully submitted that the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3) are satisfied by submitting abstracts of various of the documents not in English, partial English translations of various of the documents not in English, and the following comments.

JP Hei 2-61064 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 4,969,790, and relates to a merry-go-round system.

No. JP Hei 1-310553 relates to a single chamber.

No. JP 1-251734 relates to a vacuum cassette.

No. JP Sho 62-44571 relates to an ion implantor.

No. JP Sho 62-50463 relates to a sputtering device; and
JP Hei 2-106037 relates to a single chamber device. JP No.
Sho 57-29577 relates to a sputtering device.

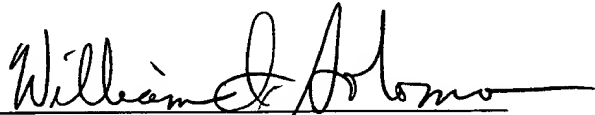
In "*Semiconductor Equipment Association of Japan*", a load
lock chamber is defined.

In view of all the foregoing, it is respectfully
submitted that all requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98
have been satisfied, in connection with the presently
submitted documents. Accordingly, consideration of these
documents, upon examination of the above-identified
application, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, please charge any shortage in
fees due in connection with the filing of this paper,
including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No.
01-2135 (Case No. 503.30414C13) and please credit any excess
fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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